MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1966.

BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
NORTHGATE HOUSE,
DEVIZES,
WILTSHIRE

To The Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Devizes.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The attached statistics which are presented without comment, are intended to represent the state of the health of the Devizes Borough during the year under review.

In refraining from comment, I should explain that I took on the duties of my appointment on the 1st March 1967 and cannot, for that reason, associate myself with the good work which was carried out by Dr. A.H. Halstead until his resignation, and subsequently by Dr. G. Wolfenden.

It is recorded that the figures for births and deaths have been supplied by the Registrar General whilst those for immunisations have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health, to both of whom we are grateful.

Yours obediently,

P.C. BARRY.

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

A.H. HALSTEAD, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. - Resigned August 1966.

Acting Medical Officer of Health

G. WOLFENDEN, M.B., B. Ch., D.P.H. - From August 1966 to March 1967.

Public Health Inspector

K. WILDEY, M.P.H.I.A., C.R.S.I., C.G.L.I. (San. Eng.)

Technical Assistant

D.A.J. DARK (Commenced duties May 1966)

Rodent Operative

F.W. BARRETT (Part-time, being shared with Devizes Rural District Council)

Clerical Staff

MRS. E.E. NOAKES

MRS. Y.F. STOREY (Part-time, additional shorthand-typist)

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	1,420
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	8,930
Number of Inhabitable dwellings as at 1st April 1966	2,964
Number of Council dwellings as at 31st December 1966	1,146
Number of Applicants for Council dwellings	385
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1966	£371,779
Product of 1d Rate as at 1st April, 1966	£1,466

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates compared with other areas (Births and Deaths per 1,000 population) Standardised *

	Birth Rate		Death Rate	
	1965	1966	1965	1966
Devizes Borough	20.0	18.4	9.5	9.8
England and Wales	18.1	17.7	11.5	11.7
Wiltshire	19.6	18.7	10.2	10.4
Devizes Rural District	18.4	17.9	9.5	8.7

*Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of the population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Live Births	80	67	5	12	164
Still Births	2	2	0	0	4
Deaths under 1 year	3	0	0	0	3
Deaths under 4 weeks	3	0	0	0	3
Deaths under 1 week	3	0	0	0	3

Natural Increase

Increase of live births over total deaths 22.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	1966			1965
	Male	Female	Total	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	0	2	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	3	6
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	0	0	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	5	9	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1	1
16. Diabetes	0	1	1	0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	6	13	13
18. Coronary disease, angina	22	28	50	27
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	0	1	1
20. Other heart disease	3	7	10	5
21. Other circulatory disease	0	1	1	2
22. Influenza	0	0	0	1
23. Pneumonia	5	3	8	12
24. Bronchitis	4	0	4	0
25. Other Diseases of the Respiratory system	0	0	0	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	1	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	0	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0	2	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	14	24	29
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	0	4	0
34. All other accidents	3	0	3	1
35. Suicide	1	1	2	0
Total	73	69	142	121

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29159222

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The following tables give details of the cases notified during the past five years, together with age incidence in cases in 1966 :-

Disease	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Measles	3	26	155	147	88
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping-cough	-	1	3	-	-
Scarlet Fever	29	20	6	11	11
Tuberculosis	3	2	2	3	3
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	5
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	1

Disease	Age Groups					Age not known	All Ages
	0-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	65-74		
Measles	54	32	2	-	-	-	88
Scarlet Fever	3	8	-	-	-	-	11
Tuberculosis	-	1	1	-	1	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	3	2	-	5
Meningococcal infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly supplied the following statistics relating to immunisation and vaccination procedures in the Borough during the year :-

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisations

Year of Birth		1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1957-61	1951-56	Others under 16.
Primary imms. completed during 1966	Diph.	83	110	9	5	3	8	2	-
	Wh/c.	83	108	9	3	1	1	-	-
	Tet.	83	110	9	5	3	17	6	-
Reinf. injects administered during 1966	Diph.	-	37	72	13	8	98	3	1
	Wh/c.	-	26	63	7	5	26	-	-
	Tet.	-	37	72	13	8	106	5	1

Smallpox Vaccinations

	Months				Years		
Age Group	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	-	4	6	13	82	15	17
Re-vaccinations.	-	-	-	-	-	6	26

Poliomyelitis Vaccinations

AGE GROUP	3rd Quad	2nd inj.	3rd inj. or 4th Quad.	4th inj.	3 oral doses	2 orals after 2 injs.	4th oral after 3 injs. or 3 oral
1966	-	-	-	-	72	-	-
1965	-	-	-	-	136	.	25
1964	-	-	-	-	21	5	15
1963	-	-	-	-	6	4	3
1962	-	-	-	-	5	1	6
1957 - 1961	-	-	-	-	26	11	72
1951 - 1956	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Others under 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others over 16	-	-	-	-	19	2	-
TOTALS	-	-	-	-	289	23	121

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS ANNUAL REPORT 1966

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eighteenth annual report.

Food premises have received customary attention frequently. Inspections must be made regularly to see that a tolerable standard of hygiene is maintained.

On the whole it was found that food-traders are willing to co-operate in improving the standard of hygiene and practices in the operation of their businesses, and it is gratifying to report that the kitchens and food-rooms of two of the largest and most patronised hotels in the Town have been completely modernised to a high standard at considerable cost both to the owner and occupiers.

Housing Surveys were carried out with the sole idea of repairing and improving houses to a standard of fitness and, in particular, encouraging owners to improve their property with the aid of a grant. Houses which were not capable of being repaired and improved at reasonable expense were dealt with by either closure or demolition. As a result, thirteen houses at Rotherstone and four houses at Bath Road were purchased by the Council with a view to demolition and redevelopment. Of the remaining houses in Rotherstone, some were found to be unfit and their owners were urged to repair and modernise them with grant aid. In a survey carried out of nine houses at The Island it was found that three houses could be brought up to standard which the owner was prepared to do with the aid of a grant. The six remaining houses could not be repaired at reasonable cost and will be ultimately demolished. Houses in multiple occupation necessitated many visits in order to compel the owners to effect repairs to improve the accommodation, and foster better management.

Complaints concerning noise and the emission of fumes from a factory required many time-consuming visits - interviewing complainants, consulting the management, taking sound level readings and smoke observations. The Management were co-operative at all times to effect remedies in their desire not to upset nearby residents.

I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their support when dealing with problems which arose during the year.

I am Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

K. WILDEY.

Public Health Inspector

HOUSING

Progress Returns forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government

A.	Houses Demolished during the year	
	1. In or adjoining Clearance Areas	43
	2. Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas	13
B.	Unfit Houses Closed during the year	28.
C.	Number of Persons displaced during the Year ..	65
D.	Number of Families displaced during the Year ..	28
E.	Unfit Houses made Fit	
	By Owner	2
	By Local Authority	1
F.	Houses in which Defects were remedied (Other than unfit houses made fit)	
	After formal notice under Public Health Acts ..	9
G.	Unfit Houses in Temporary Use	Nil.
H.	Purchase of Houses by Agreement	Nil.

Improvement Grants

Standard Grants

	Owner/Occupied Standard		Tenanted Standard	
	5 point	3 point	5 point	3 point
Number of applications received	5	2	2	0
" " " approved	5	2	2	0
" " " refused	2	0	0	0
" " Dwellings improved	6	0	2	0
Amount paid in grants during the year	....	....	.... £1,219. 19s. 3d.	
Average grant per house	....	....	.... £145.	

Number of Amenities provided

Fixed Bath	Wash-hand basin	Hot water supply (to any fittings)	Water Closet	Food Store
8	6	8	7	5

Discretionary Grants

	Owner/Occupied	Tenanted
Number of applications received	0	0
" " dwellings improved	0	2
Amount paid in grants during the year	....	.... £530. 0s. 0d.
Average grant per house	....	.... £265. 0s. 0d.

Improvement Grants (Contd)

Improvement Areas

Number of areas surveyed during year	....	4
Houses to be improved to full standard	....	13
Number of houses improved to full standard	....	3

Dwellings outside improvement areas

Number of representations by tenants	....	2
" " Undertakings accepted	....	3

Disrepair Certificates

There were no applications received during the year for disrepair certificates.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply has remained satisfactory in quantity and quality. Thirteen raw samples of water have been taken by the North Wilts Water Board during the year all of which were satisfactory.

Numerous samples have been taken from taps in the Town both by the Water Board and your Public Health Inspector :-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Number of samples taken by the North Wilts Water Board	36	1
Number of samples taken by the Public Health Inspector	5	0

The unsatisfactory sample was shown to be polluted with non-faecal type coliform organisms only.

Number of dwelling-houses supplied from Public water mains	...	2,957
Number of population supplied from Public water mains	...	8,921
Number of population supplied by means of stand pipes	...	9

SEWERAGE

Treatment is undertaken at two sewage works. One at Roundway which serves the Hospital and Nursteed area, and the other at Bath Road which takes sewage from the remainder of the Town (together with Roundway Park and the Barracks).

Samples are taken periodically by the Avon River Board from both works. Figures for oxygen demand and suspended solids have been satisfactory during 1966.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Milk Sampling

There are ten distributors licensed to sell milk in the Borough, including four retail shops, two vending-machines and five dairies. The dairies are inspected regularly. Twenty inspections were made and 50 samples of milk submitted, the results are as follows :-

	Passed	Failed
Raw Milk samples for statutory test	10	2
Heated treated samples for statutory test	38	0

15 of the raw milk samples were also submitted for biological tests, the results are :-

Tuberculosis	- Positive	- Nil.
	Negative	- 15
Brucellosis	- Positive	- Nil.
	Negative	- 15.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned

	Cwts.	lbs.
1. Meat at Slaughterhouses	0	0
2. Meat at Retail Shops	0	0
3. Canned meats		74
4. Fish		2
5. Fruit and Vegetables		32
6. Other foods		23
Total	1.	19.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

The following premises are subject to these Regulations :-

	No. of Premises	Number of Premises -		
		Fitted to comply with Regn. 16.	To which Regn. 19 applies	Fitted to comply with Regn. 19.
Dairies	4	4	4	4
Fish Shops (Wet)	1	1	1	1
Fish Shops (Fried)	5	5	5	5
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	10	10	10	10
Hospitals, Institutions	5	5	5	5
School Canteens	7	7	7	7
Factory and Works Canteens	6	6	6	6
Licensed Premises	26	26	26	26
Mobile Vans	3	3	0	0
Sweet Shops	8	8	0	0
Bread & Confectionery	5	5	5	5
Covered Market (Stalls)	9	9	5	5
Public Buildings	2	2	2	2
Guest Houses	2	2	2	2
Grocers	20	20	20	20
Butchers	6	6	6	6
Greengrocers	6	6	6	6
Multiple Stores	3	3	3	3
Totals	128	128	113	113

These figures do not include food-rooms which are used in social activities in connection with Places of Worship.

The following figures relate to defects found and remedied during the year by occupiers of food premises to comply with the Regulations.

Market Stalls

	Contraventions Found	Remedied
Food exposed to possible risk of contamination.	7	7
No towel, soap or nailbrush	1	1
Name not displayed	5	5
No first-aid equipment	1	1

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 (Contd.)

Food Premises	Contraventions Found	Remedied
Faulty Staircase	1	1
Inadequate lighting	13	13
Inadequate ventilation	3	2
Improper handling of food	2	2
Washing Facilities-		
(a) No hot water at Wash basin	5	3
(b) No soap	1	1
(c) No Towel	1	1
(d) No nail-brush	10	10
(e) No hand-washing notice	4	4
(f) Mis-use of wash basin	2	2
Unsatisfactory food benches and equipment	6	4
Yard in disrepair	1	0
Dirty Overclothing	2	
Food exposed to possible risk of contamination	3	
Wrapping paper exposed to risk of contamination	2	
Disrepair-		
(a) Floor coverings	9	9
(b) Generally	24	19
In need of redecoration	6	5
Unsatisfactory Sanitary Accommodation-		
(a) W.C. not ventilated	3	1
(b) W.C. opening direct to food-room	1	1
(c) Insufficient sanitary accommodation	2	2
(d) Inadequately lighted	2	2
(e) In need of repair and redecoration	11	11
Clothing or foot-wear found in food-room	4	4
Insanitary Beer Cellars	2	2
Improper storage of refuse	3	3
No first-aid materials available	3	

Breath Screens

Occupiers of food premises were requested to provide breath screens where possible to prevent contamination of food by people's breath.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	7	43	20
Retail Shops	5	119	24
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	0	4	2
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	2	11	7
Fuel storage depots	0	2	1
Totals	14	179	54

Total Number of Visits of all Kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises under the Act 197

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions Found		Section	Number of Contraventions Found	
4	Cleanliness	13	13	Sitting facilities	2
5	Overcrowding	0	14	Seats (Sedentary workers)	0
6	Temperature	4	15	Eating facilities	0
7	Ventilation	11	16	Floors, passage & stairs	19
8	Lighting	22	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	0
9	Sanitary conveniences	1	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	0
10	Washing facilities	22	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	0
11	Supply of drinking water	7	23	Prohibition of heavy work	0
12	Clothing accommodation	5	24	First aid General provisions	11
				TOTAL	117

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Contd.)

147 of the 179 premises registered (82.12%) have received a general inspection, 32 premises remain to be inspected and a further 27 may come within the scope of the Act.

Occupiers on the whole have been most co-operative, but in the majority of cases they waited for an official to visit to give advice on the general requirements of the Act. There were some premises with shabby decoration, none were very dirty. A serious case of overcrowding of employees was remedied during the year in a kitchen, and it was necessary to re-organise working arrangements to alleviate the congestion.

Statutory temperatures were maintained in most cases although where temperatures were between 60.8°F and 65°F sedentary workers complained of being cold and uncomfortable. Butchers objected to the recommended temperature in shops and cutting-up rooms, particularly where poultry plucking is carried out.

With regards to lighting, there were a few cases where the lighting standard was low, particularly on staircases and passages not used by the public. There were four instances where the staff objected to higher wattage bulbs as they preferred the softer lighting, and although increased wattage bulbs had been inserted, on re-inspection it was learned that employees had exchanged the bulbs for ones of lower power.

One accident occurred during the year in a warehouse. Investigation revealed the man had strained a muscle building a rockery in his garden and obviously a weakness which manifested itself, was sustained when helping to lift a night-storage heater off a lorry on returning to work.

Inadequate ventilation of shops was found mainly in premises where windows completely enveloped the front and no provision had been made for any opening other than the fan light over the door, which in some instances was inadequate and fixed for security reasons and to comply with burglary insurance requirements. As reported last year, there seems to be a feeling with the occupiers that the door opening and closing provides adequate ventilation without causing draughts.

Drinking water was also a problem where there was lack of space to provide a sink and tap away from the sanitary convenience.

A good number of structural defects were found including worn floor coverings and a few defective floors, which were potentially dangerous, and the occupiers were requested to remedy them.

RODENT CONTROL

The Devizes Borough Council continue to share satisfactorily the services of the Rodent Operative with the Devizes Rural District Council on alternate weeks.

Sewer treatments have been carried out periodically and moderate infestations were found in Long Street, The Brittox, New Park Street, Station Road, Morris Lane and Church Walk. Regular visits are made to the refuse tip to keep infestations within satisfactory limits.

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Properties other than sewers		
1. Number of properties in district	3961	17
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	31	-
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	22	
(ii) Mice	9	
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	2208	5
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	74	1
(ii) Mice	-	-

All of the many complaints of nuisances arising from infestation of wasps, moles, flies, woodworm and cockroaches were promptly dealt with by your Rodent Operative.

SUMMARY OF DUTIES

Inspections made in respect of -

HOUSING	- Housing inspections	82
	Improvement Grants	28
	Dangerous buildings	3
	Dilapidated properties	1
	Multiple lettings	20
	Overcrowding complaints	1
PUBLIC HEALTH	- Drains : Visits	31
	Water tested	2
	Colour tested	8
	Zymotics	11
	Old Persons (welfare visits)	2
	School Inspections	2
FOOD	- Dairies	4
	Food Hygiene (General) Regulations	120
	Food Inspections	11
	Visits in connection with milk sampling	48
	Food Poisoning	Nil
FACTORIES	Factories or Work Places	5
	Outworkers' premises	Nil
RODENT CONTROL	- Rodent Control	55
	Insect and pest complaints	82
MISCELLANEOUS	- Complaints	74
	Interviews with Builders/owners/representatives	95
	Caravan Sites Control of Development Act 1960	9
	Nuisances	26
	Visits - unclassifiable	31
	Petroleum Acts -	
	Inspection of Fuel storage depots	9
	Air pressure applied to petroleum tanks	12
	Statutory Notices served	30